

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

/068 W

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R 021530Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2436

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USEUCOM VAIHINGEN

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

UNCLAS STUTTGART 0431

FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652/ N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJ: BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG COMMUNAL ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY. JUST RELEASED FINAL RESULTS OF APRIL 20 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS CONFIRM CDU DOMINANCE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. AFTER WINNING 53.8 PERCENT OF VOTE IN 1972 LANDTAG ELECTIONS, CDU WON 49.8 PERCENT IN 1972 BUNDESTAG CONTEST, PARTY HAS NOW CAPTURED MANY CITY HALLS, WHICH PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED SPD AND INDEPENDENT VOTERS' ASSOCIATIONS' BASTIONS. SPD LOSSES ATTRIBUTED PARTLY TO POOR LEADERSHIP AND LACK OF ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE RESULTS AS COMPARED TO 1971:

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	1975	1971	DIFFERENCE
CDU	38.6	32.2	PLUS 6.4 PERCENT
SPD	29.0	34.3	- 5.3 "

FDP	5.5	5.0	PLUS 0.5 "
INDEPENDENT VOTERS			
ASSOCIATIONS	5.3	3.9	PLUS 1.4 "
OTHERS	1.2	1.1	PLUS 9.1 "

3. THE VERY UNUSUAL BALLOTING SYSTEM IN THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG COMMUNAL ELECTIONS, WHERE A VOTER CAN ACCUMULATE UP TO THREE VOTES ON ONE PERSON (KUMULIEREN), AND PANASCHIEREN (A FORM OF BALLOT SPITTING) , IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT VOTES CAST ARE WEIGHED DIFFERENTLY IN THE 11 CATEGORIES OF COMMUNITIES BETWEEN 6 AND 60 COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS. SUCH A PROCESS MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS' ASSOCIATIONS TO GAIN DOMINATE WITH 41.3 PERCENT OF THE SEATS, ALTHOUGH WINNING ONLY 5.3 PERCENT OF THE VOTES. THE 1971 COMMUNAL ELECTIONS HAD GIVEN THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS' ASSOCIATIONS 55.9 PERCENT OF THE SEATS.

4. MOST MEDIA COMMENTARY ATTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANT DROP IN PERCENTAGE OF VOTES CAST FOR SPD TO INEPTNESS AND LACK OF APPEAL OF PARTY LEADERSHIP IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. PARTY CHAIRMAN EPPLER AND LANDTAG FACTION CHAIRMAN SCHIELER HAVE OVER PAST TWO YEARS SUFFERED INCREASINGLY BY INVIDIOUS COMPARISON TO MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER AND LOTHAR SPAETH, THEIR CDU COUNTERPARTS. IN POST-ELECTION CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFICERS, SPD BUNDESTAG REPRESENTATIVE CONRADI, WHO LOST HANDILY TO ROMMEL (CDU) IN STUTTGART MAYORALTY CONTACT LAST NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, CONCEDED PROBLEM OF LEADERSHIP BUT ATTRIBUTED SPD REVERSES ALSO TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL TRENDS IN URBAN CENTERS AND WITHIN THE SPD AS A PARTY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THESE FACTORS INCLUDE LOCAL REACTION TO CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, INCREASING INADEQUACY OF URBAN SERVICES, AND DEVELOPING DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN TRADITIONAL SPD LEADERSHIP AND NEW PARTY COMPOSITION OVER PAST FEW YEARS. THIS IS A LINE OF THOUGHT WORTH EXPLORING IN SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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LOCAL PARTY TRENDS, BUT DIFFICULT TO SUBSTANTIATE ON THE BASIS OF ELECTION RETURNS ALONE.

3. THE FDP WHICH ON BASIS INITIAL RETURNS WAS CONSIDERED AMONG THE WINNERS, ONLY GAINED IN LAST ANALYSIS 0.5PERCENT. THIS COULD HARDLY BE INTERPRETED AS AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LAND POSITION OF THE FDP, SINCE THIS YEAR THE PARTY MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO PUT UP LISTS OF ITS OWN RATHER THAN TO RUN ON "MIXED LISTS" OF INDEPENDENT VOTERS' ASSOCIATIONS AS IT HAS DONE IN PAST COMMUNAL ELECTIONS.

6. RADICAL GROUPS PLAYED INSIGNIFICANT ROLE EXCEPT

FOR SOME INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RESPECTED AS PERSONALITIES.  
FOR EXAMPLE EUGEN EBERLE, A COMMUNIST WHO RAN ON A  
LIST OF HIS OWN ("PARTEIFREIES BUENDNIS EUGEN EBERLE")  
IN STUTTGART, AGAIN DREW LARGE VOTE, EVEN GETTING "POINTS"  
FROM CDU AND NPD VOTERS.

7. IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE OF WYHL, WHERE LOCAL  
PROTESTS HAVE BLOCKED CDU GOVERNMENT FROM ERECT-  
TING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, CDU LOST TWO OF ITS FORMER  
FIVE SEATS. THE TWO SEATS WENT TO A CITIZENS' INI-  
TIATIVE ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAD BEEN PUT UP BY OPPO-  
NENTS TO REACTOR CONSTRUCTION, RATHER THAN TO THE  
SPD.

8. COMMENT: COMMUNAL ELECTION RETURNS SEEM TO IN-  
DICATE CONTINUING TREND IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG TOWARD  
CDU, EVIDENCED EARLIER IN BUNDESTAG AND LANDTAG ELEC-  
TIONS OF 1972. LOCAL SPD ORGANIZATION SHOULD SEE  
HANDWRITING ON THE WALL: IT HAS A LONG, HARD ROAD  
AHEAD IF IT IS TO MAKE CREDIBLE SHOWING IN 1976 LAND-  
TAG AND BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. JENKINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** BADEN-WUERTEMBERG, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**To:** BONN INFO STATE  
USBERLIN  
BREMEN  
DUESSELDORF  
FRANKFURT  
HAMBURG

MUNICCH  
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USAREUR HEIDELBERG

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